

### Influenza Research

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**T**HE CURRENT 'FLU epidemic reminds us of the possibility of our doing some useful research work on this common and distressing condition. This year's virus has been espe-

cially savage in its effects, with a prolonged illness and convalescence.

British researchers have been studying the use of amantadine hydrochloride in the prophylaxis and

therapy of influenza. Early results are encouraging. Here is an idea which could be usefully developed for study in Canada if someone is interested enough to work on it. If a start is made now, it should be possible to have all preparations ready for the next epidemic. Although the national research committee in Canada could not conduct such a study, it could give considerable help and guidance to anyone who would like to take it on as a project.

#### Illness Observation Unit

At the national research committee's two-day conference following the board meeting, there was considerable discussion of the illness observation unit and its further development. Plans were made to proceed to the next step, which involves a group of family practitioners across the country who are prepared to record certain specified details in a way which can be compared with other areas. The details are being worked out by Dr. Jim Collyer, with the help of the Consolidated Comment System.

It is quite possible that this unit will be the nucleus for the national research unit, which we are planning and which will eventually provide an expert service which will be continuously available to assist in the development of our research program.

For those attending the Annual Scientific Assembly of the College at Banff in September, there will be a display prepared by the Alberta research committee to show the possibilities for research in general practice. Members of the national research committee will also be attending the meeting, and will be prepared to discuss any problems or ideas which may be presented to them informally, and to encourage formal presentation to the committee when this may be appropriate.

Watch for the research display, and try to take the time to see and hear it. ◀



## WITH ANTIVERT!

Antivert\* stops vertigo in 9 out of 10 cases.<sup>(1)</sup> Antivert (meclizine hydrochloride and niacin) is indicated in vertigo caused by Ménière's syndrome, labyrinthitis or cerebral arteriosclerosis. Antivert restores equilibrium and increases the flow of blood through vasodilation.<sup>(2)</sup>

**Composition:** Meclizine hydrochloride 12.5 mg. and niacin 50 mg. per tablet.

**Uses:** Antivert is indicated in the treatment of vertigo, whether due to cerebral arteriosclerosis, Ménière's syndrome, labyrinthitis, radiation sickness, vestibular dysfunction or other related conditions. Antivert has also been found valuable in the treatment of vascular headache.

**Contraindications:** Because of the vasodilation produced by niacin, severe hypotension and hemorrhage are contraindications to Antivert therapy.

**Side Effects:** Patients should be made aware of the frequent, short-lived, reactions experienced with niacin therapy: cutaneous flushing, sensations of warmth, tingling and itching, burning of the skin, increased gastrointestinal motility, and sebaceous gland activity. These reactions are coincidental to vasodilation produced by niacin. In explaining these reactions to the patient, it is suggested that they be regarded as desirable, being a physiological sign that the niacin is carrying out its intended function.

**Precautions:** Meclizine may occasionally induce drowsiness. The physician should inform patients of the need for due precautions when engaged in activities requiring alertness.

**Dosage:** One Antivert tablet 3 times a day before meals. If excessive flushing occurs, tablets should be taken immediately after meals.

**Supply:** Scored tablets (blue), in bottles of 100.

(1) Menger, Harold C.: *Medical Management of Ménière's Syndrome and Allied Labyrinthine Disorders: Clinical Evaluation of Antivert*. *Clinical Medicine*, 4:313 (March) 1957.

(2) Griesman, Bruno L.: *Vascular Patterns of the Conjunctival Vessels in cases of Deafness, Tinnitus and Dizziness: Scientific Exhibit Presented at the Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Chicago, Illinois, October 18-22, 1964.*

FULL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

\*Trade Mark — Authorized User.



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